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INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY LAOS

SUBJECT ACCOUNTS OF THE SHOOTING DOWN OF A SUPPLY PLANE IN SAVANNAKHET

REPORT NO. TDCS-3/560,051

DATE DIST. 25 SEPTEMBER 1963

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO. 5-7 SEPTEMBER 1963

REFERENCES DI 26742

PLACE & DATE ACQ. APPRAISAL

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE CREDITS ARE DEFECTIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE

APPRAISAL: ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT VARY, IT IS PROBABLY TRUE THAT SOME OF THE CREW MEMBERS WERE CAPTURED ALIVE.

1. SUMMARY. SEPARATE ACCOUNTS OF THE 5 SEPTEMBER 63 CRASH OF A C-46 ON A RICE SUPPLY MISSION TO BAN HOUET SANE INDICATE THAT IT WAS SHOT DOWN BY A PATHET LAO (PL)/ VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST (VC) UNIT ABOUT EIGHT KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF MUONG PHINE AND THAT IT CRASHED ABOUT FOURTEEN KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF MUONG PHINE. ONE ACCOUNT MENTIONS ONLY FIVE OF THE SIX CREW MEMBERS ABOARD. THE OTHER STATES THAT ONE CREW MEMBER WAS KILLED, AND THAT FIVE WERE CAPTURED, WITH THREE OF THE CAPTURED HAVING BEEN TAKEN ON 7 SEPTEMBER

STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACED NAVY AIR AID SECDEF USA DDC AID USA

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POSSIBLY TO TCHEPONE. THE STATUS OF THE OTHER TWO IS NOT CLEAR.

2. A VILLAGER FROM THE BAN PALUNG (WD 7522) AREA VISITED BAN THO (WD 7528), ABOUT 35 KILOMETERS EAST OF MUONG PHINE, AND ATTENDED A MEETING CALLED BY VAI XIENG RY, THE RECENTLY PL-APPOINTED TASSENG. XIENG RY STATED THAT THE VC TROOPS BASED AT XD 1534, EIGHT KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF MUONG PHINE, SHOT DOWN AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT ON 5 SEPTEMBER AT XD 8539, ABOUT 14 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF MUONG PHINE. XIENG RY SAID TWO MEN BAILED OUT AT WD 9841, ABOUT 18 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF MUONG PHINE. THREE MEN WHO BAILED OUT WERE CAPTURED BY VILLAGERS AT BAN KHAMSAGI WD 9848 AND MOVED TO A VC POSITION AT XD 1636. COMMENT. PRESUMABLY THIS IMPLIES THAT FIVE MEN BAILED OUT IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA AND THAT THREE OF THEM WERE CAPTURED. NOTE THAT PARA 3 BELOW STATES THAT THE PL CAPTURED FIVE MEN, BUT REPORTS THAT ONLY THREE CAPTURED MEN WERE MOVED ON 7 SEPTEMBER.)

3. TWO VILLAGERS WHO RETURNED TO BAN MUONG KAO (XD 1365) ON 13 SEPTEMBER FROM THA KHOUNG REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:

A. A PLANE LOADED WITH RICE AND MEAT ENROUTE TO BAN HOUET SANE WAS SHOT DOWN BY A MIXED PL/VC UNIT AT BAN HOUET AYAT (XD 1637).

B. THE PLANE WAS HIT, A WING BROKE OFF, AND THE

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PLANE CRASHED ON A SMALL RICE PADDY AT BAN NA SENG MAY. (XD 0139)

C. THE PL CAPTURED FIVE MEN. ONE MAN WAS DEAD.
RICE, MEAT, AND DOCUMENTS WERE RECOVERED FROM THE PLANE.

D. TWO AMERICANS, TWO CHINESE, AND TWO THAIS
CREWED THE PLANE. [REDACTED] COMMENT. THE CREW CONSISTED OF
THREE AMERICANS, ONE CHINESE NATIONALIST, AND TWO THAIS.)
ONE AMERICAN WAS KILLED. THE REST OF THE CREW WAS CAPTURED
AND MOVED TO MUONG PHINE.

E. ON 7 SEPTEMBER THREE OF THE CAPTURED CREWMEN
WERE MOVED TO THA KHOUNG. [REDACTED] COMMENT. THA KHOUNG
MAY REFER TO THA KHONG, ANOTHER NAME FOR TCHEPONE.)

4. [REDACTED] DISSEM STATE ARMY AIR USAID CINCPAC PACFLT
PACAF ARPAC

END OF MESSAGE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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